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## THE ASSOCIATION'S POLICIES<sup>1</sup>

The honor of serving as President of the American Water Works Association carries with it commensurate responsibilities. While I deeply appreciate the confidence expressed in being called to serve in that capacity, I am fully aware of the difficulties lying ahead.

We cannot return unchanged to pre-war conditions, and we have laid upon us now during the period of transition the duty of determining what our own future will be. During the war we had the consolation and the excuse that every move was made under an emergency whereas now each step taken is a tie into a definite future. This is a situation that prevails in our Association as well as in our individual enterprises.

The finances of the Association must be adjusted to the new standards now prevailing. Ways and means must be devised to secure an income more equitably adjusted to our necessary expenditures, which doubtless can be most readily obtained by an increasing membership.

The most effective appeal to prospective new members lies in service rendered or to be rendered by the Association to the water works fraternity. The proposal to increase the number of issues of the JOURNAL from four to six per year, and to change its essential character from a recorder of past events to a messenger of current news will place an asset in the hands of the Membership Committee that can be used with the individual operator and the municipal or private corporations which he represents. Membership in a body of two thousand is worth more than membership in a body of twelve hundred, and the more we grow the greater will be our rate of increase.

We claim to be, and are, a national organization of water works men. To continue effectively as such the broad view and not the local must prevail in our councils. The need of concerted action with power and weight of numbers and influence behind it was emphasized during the war when the lack of a strong representative

<sup>1</sup> Address by Carleton E. Davis, President-elect, at the annual convention at Buffalo, June 10, 1919.

body placed the water works of the country at a disadvantage in appearing at Washington before the Priorities and similar controlling commissions.

In a timid way we have coöperated in the past with the American Committee on Electrolysis. It is a sign of growth that we have now decided to continue action on that Committee in a vigorous and thoroughly safe manner.

Another sign of expansion in a national field is the suggestion to use our influence to secure a collection and tabulation of water works statistics by the United States Census, in a manner similar to that now done in the field of other public utilities.

Such activities have doubtless influenced the suggestions made that serious thought must be given the relations of the various sections to the central body and particularly as their mutual interest may affect the annual conventions and the nature of the program to be followed on such occasions. There appears to be well-nigh unanimous concurrence in the belief that we are on the eve of important events and possible changes, but we all approach the solution of any difficulties with a feeling of confidence that the future holds more than the past.